

# THE SWORD OF THE LORD

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE  
Office 207 South Beckley, Phone 6-6888

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

VOLUME VI, No. 15

DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1939

\$1.00 PER YEAR

## Christians: Secure and Insecure

The following is a letter written by Dr. Rice to one who does not believe in the eternal security of a believer:

Dear Brother D—:

I have read very carefully your letter of September 5, and the book by John R. C—, entitled "Security in Christ," or "Kept By the Indwelling Spirit," which you sent me. However, that book is falsely named. What the book is really about is insecurity in Christ or, "Kept By Your Own Works, If You Are Kept At All." I find it is throughout simply teaching the doctrine of salvation by human works instead of depending on Christ for salvation. This book teaches just like the Pharisee believed who went up into the temple to pray unto God about how good he was, in Luke, chapter 18, while the publican cried for mercy on him who was a sinner.

These two ideas about the plan of salvation run all through the world. One group, including all the self-righteous, so-called moral men and some churches, teach that one will be saved by being good, and will be kept saved by keeping good. The other group believe that idea which is so clearly taught in the Bible that God saves sinners and all sins are laid on Christ, who pays for them, and that we are saved by Heavenly grace and kept the same way when we trust in Christ.

The main reason the Methodists have lost the old-time doctrine that "ye must be born again," is that they teach salvation by character. More and more they ignore the blood and go into modernism and unbelief. Multitudes of Methodist preachers will tell you that a child properly reared does not need to be born again.

It is worth your attention to notice that the great Bible Institutes in America which are denominational and simply try to teach the Bible as it is without leaning toward any denominational doctrines, all teach the security of a believer in Christ, that a saved person cannot be lost because of his sins, past, present or future; that he is forgiven when he depends on Christ and that he gets everlasting life.

I know that if you can get an open heart for it, you will be willing to lay aside your prejudices and take the Word of God for exactly what it says, admitting that you have been wrong. Then you will get the matter settled as I did.

In a Methodist Sunday school which I attended as a boy, I was taught the doctrine you believe in. In fact it is an easy matter to look to self instead of looking to Christ, and to depend upon our supposed "goodness" instead of the righteousness of Christ.

If you ever get settled in your heart the Bible doctrine of sin and see that all of us are sinners all the time, then you will see that no person could ever be saved by being without sin and that no Christian could ever keep himself saved ten minutes. If sin would cause a Christian to lose salvation, then the sin that is ever present in the heart, hidden from consciousness, perhaps, but there just the same, would damn every one. There is

no such thing as a Christian being sinless. Unless God keeps him saved by His grace, keeps the Christian when he does not deserve it, he could never stay saved a minute.

Read the plain word of First John 1:8: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." If an apostle could not say that he had no sin, then neither can you. But if sin could make you become lost after you are a born-again child of God, then every person who was ever converted would immediately be lost again because "There is none good, no, not one."

I hope you will read again, carefully, my booklet on "Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost." Pray about it and ask God to let you see the meaning of grace and of the atoning blood of Christ which paid for man's sins. Sin does not pay. It burns and blights and curses all it touches, whether it be a child of God or an unconverted unbeliever. And God whips His child for sin. I am not minimizing sin nor taking up for sin. But I am defending the grace of God which saves unworthy sinners and gives them everlasting life so that God does not even charge up the sins of a Christian to him, but charges them up to Christ. Thus we rejoice in salvation by grace and we are kept by grace. Romans 4:5-8 says:

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

"Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 'Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.'"

"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

Remember this, if man saves himself by good works, then man must keep himself saved by good works. But if God saves by grace the undeserving sinner who does not work, then God must keep by grace the undeserving sinner whose sins are all laid on Christ and paid for by His atoning blood.

Again let me say, there is no (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## Special Offering For Building Due November 5th

By unanimous agreement last Sunday we began preparations for a big building fund offering to be brought in by November 5. Many will make part of their gifts next Sunday, the last Sunday in October, and all are to have their gifts in for the building by the first Sunday of November, November 5th.

Last Sunday some agreed to give fifty dollars, some forty, some twenty-five, several twenty, etc. Some will give five dollars and I feel sure that some may feel they can only give one dollar or even less. But we urge that every member of our church, and others who feel led to have a part in this work, will bring their offerings for the new building by November 5th, whatever you can. God will bless every heart which has part.

The money we had raised since last November is all gone. What we do not raise in cash, we must borrow to keep the work going. By all means let us bring in as much as possible to the glory of God. Several hundred dollars will come in November 5, we feel sure, and how that will help on the heavy payroll!

The building looks wonderful. Today (Wednesday, October 25th) the roof decking is going on, though not all the rafter trusses are yet up. God willing, next week will see the roof on and then things will rapidly begin to take shape inside. Early in December, God willing, we will have our big opening of the new building. It will have an auditorium seating about 750, with over 50,000 square feet in the auditorium. There will also be church office, pastor's study, four rest rooms, and about 70,000 square feet of floor space for the Sunday school, besides the auditorium and offices.

Bring or send your offerings. Let every one of you have such part as God lays on your heart. And let us pray for a great revival when the building is opened, God willing, in December.

## Praise Changes Things

BY MRS. CHARLES E. COWMAN

Several years ago, S. D. Gordon wrote a booklet entitled, "Prayer Changes Things." It has gone 'round the world and the caption has been used for mottoes, tracts, articles, etc. Great blessing has followed this simple statement. We all know that prayer does change things, but, we also know that many times when we have prayed and prayed, the enemy has not been moved an inch from his stronghold.

During a time of great pressure in my life I came into the possession of this secret, "PRAISE changes things."

One morning, during the summer, a missionary living with us came in, holding in his hand a lovely white pigeon, saying, "I found this bird in the garden and think that something must be the matter with one of its wings as it does not fly." He became greatly interested in it, builded a cote from an old dry goods box, carried food to it regularly, but the days came and went and the pigeon just walked about on the ground watching the others as they soared away up through the blue. Poor little bird with a wounded wing!

### Prayer and Praise, the Two Wings of the Soul

We became greatly attached to the wee thing, for we too were prisoners and our hearts were knit in tender sympathy to it. Prayer had gone up from our hearts almost unceasingly, one long heart cry, night and day for release, but, not a rift in the cloud was to be seen. Our "prayer wing" was fully exercised, but we were still like the little bird, bound. We do thank God that throughout those crisis days we were kept from fainting or giving up, even when our way seemed utterly blocked!

Sometime ago our attention was forcibly drawn to an altogether new line of fighting the enemy, and the Word of God so unfolded on the subject, with such a revelation of the secret of victory that our lives have been entirely changed. Prayer and PRAISE are the two wings that mount the soul upward to God. Prayer asks, praise takes.

I fancy someone is saying right now, "I do not feel like praising God. Praise in the valley of the shadow? Praise when my heart is bleeding and torn? HOW can I praise God at such a time?"

Psalm 107:22: "Sacrifice — the sacrifice of thanksgiving."

What is a sacrifice? It is an offering to God. A sacrifice of thanksgiving is to praise the Lord when you do not feel like it, when you are sad and despondent, for "it is acceptable to God, a 'sweet smelling savour' to your Lord and King." While we are admonished to "pray without ceasing," are we not also commanded to "rejoice evermore?"

When shall I praise God? When I feel happy and everything is moving along with ease, not a trial to cross my pathway, not a burden to bear? It would be no sacrifice to praise at such a time.

### Praise Delivered Jonah From the Whale

The book of Jonah throws a great deal of light upon this subject, and contains a precious truth. Jonah was in a place where the outlook was certainly dark, all human hope had fled, and there he was in the bottom of the sea, inside the whale. What a desperate

situation, but he did the sensible thing, took his eyes off the discouraging surroundings and "looked toward the holy temple" and began to pray. That is the best place to "look" when in trouble. He said, there at the bottom of the sea, with sea-weed wrapped about his head, that his "very soul fainted within him," but he "looked to God." He then went a step further and determined to praise without feeling, saying, "I will sacrifice with the voice of thanksgiving." What a place for a praise meeting and what a song he sang! "Salvation (deliverance) is of the Lord."

As he sang and praised, the great whale began to rise toward the surface of the water and move out toward the shore, and soon Jonah found himself standing on the earth.

Praise has a wonderful lifting power, and we need not be anxious about the outcome of things if we will take the attitude of deliverance and begin to praise. When Jonah's soul fainted within him he deliberately looked away from his surroundings and said these wonderful words, "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." Hemmed in on every side, every thing that he could see that suggested disaster he termed a "lying vanity." Let us also remember this. We never get faith and victory by looking at our surroundings.

We read in First Samuel 16, of Saul being tormented with an evil spirit. David was sent for, and the record says that "When David played upon his harp, the evil spirit left him and he was well." Is not this a splendid and effective way to get rid of the enemy?

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

## Choosing The Wrong Sweetheart

(No. 4 in a series of articles by Rev. Sam Morris of Voice of Temperance Broadcast, Del Rio, Texas).

God has a man for every emergency. He had Noah to build the ark at the time of the flood. He had Abraham through whom to start the Hebrew race. He had Joseph to preserve life during the seven years of famine in Egypt. He had Moses to lead the children of Israel out of bondage. He had Joshua for the conquest of Canaan. He had Samson for a judge.

The book of Judges is a series of several cycles as follows:

The people would sin against God. He would send oppression. They would suffer through servitude, ultimately repent, God would raise a deliverer, they would serve God while their deliverer lasted, then fall into sin, and the cycle would be repeated. This cycle is repeated several times in the book of Judges. Among the Judges who arose to deliver the people and judge the land were Othniel, Ehud,

Shamgar, Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Jephthah and Samson. Samson rose as the thirteenth judge during the time of oppression by the Philistines.

### Samson's Advantage

Samson had the advantage of a consecrated home. His father and mother were deeply devoted to God, earnest in their worship, and constant in their service. When the angel of the Lord announced to them that they were to be the parents of a son, they immediately made their vows, consecrated themselves and their son to the Lord, and when their son was later born, in keeping with the instruction of the angel, they consecrated him and as a Nazarite, reared him to abstain from strong drink, and to wear long hair which was the outward mark of his consecration. Such a parentage and such a home environment and such an early training is an advantage to any young man. Many a man can (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

## High School Boy Quits Movies!

The following is a letter received in the Sword Book Room recently:

"I have just read your book, *What Is Wrong With the Movies?* I am a high school student and have been attending the movies at the average of twice a week for some time. For the last year I have been working in a book shop. Recently this book of yours appeared on the counter. Being a movie fan, I thought I would read it. I am thankful that I have. If I hadn't, I would probably be still going to the movies. Now I never expect to go again. The store where I work is in between two movies. From now on, I guarantee *What Is Wrong With the Movies?* will be placed where all can see it in the window display."

"I am sorry that I had not read this book before. I thought as long as I went to see the good movies, what was wrong in that? But the stage show was always unclear. A million thanks for showing me how to be a real Christian."

(Signed) "Robert Milstead  
Washington, D. C."

We have many such letters as this. Order copies today and prayerfully put them in the hands of those who need this light on picture shows. 35c a single copy, or 4 copies for \$1.00. Order from The Sword Book Room, 207 South Beckley, Dallas, Texas.

### Hear John R. Rice

RADIO WRR, 7:30 A.M.

Sunday School — 9:30 A.M.

Sermon — 10:45 A.M.

Evangelistic Service — 7:30 P.M.

201 EAST TENTH STREET



## PRAISE CHANGES THINGS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"The weakest saint may Satan rout  
Who meets him with a praise-ful shout."  
"When I cannot pray I always begin to sing," was the testimony of Martin Luther.

It is said that there is not a despondent note in the New Testament.

There is a thrilling story in Second Chronicles 20:22 of how a battle was won through praise. A great company had arrayed themselves against Jehoshaphat and his small number for battle. Knowing well that he could not prevail against them he cried out in fear, saying, "We have no might against this great company that cometh out against us, neither know we what to do." Special prayer with fasting was called for, and the people fell on their faces before God. It was a crisis hour with them. In the midst of the prayer meeting a young man arose filled with the Spirit. He said, "The battle is not our but God's; be not afraid." Prayer overcomes fear, and fear is a deadly enemy. Let us remember that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7).

The next thing they did was to appoint praise to go out before the army, singing and praising God. We have this marvelous record, "When they BEGAN to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the enemy" and they were smitten, so that Jehoshaphat and his people were three days gathering the spoil, it was so great. So you see that they were much richer at the end of the trial than at the beginning, and "the way of the wicked was turned upside down."

### Praise Delivered Paul and Silas From Prison

Paul and Silas were bound in an inner prison, their feet fast in the stocks, because they had preached the old time religion which stirred up opposition and persecution. There was no earthly way of escape, and it looked as if they would lose their lives the next day. Do we hear them murmuring at the hardness of the way, grumbling, complaining, weeping? Praise God, we hear nothing of the kind, but at the midnight hour they prayed and PRAISED. I do not imagine they felt very happy but they praised God without feeling and offered the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Methinks this was what they sang:

"His grace is sufficient for me,  
His grace is sufficient for me,  
My strength is made perfect  
in weakness,

His grace is sufficient for me."  
And, as they sang and praised, the foundations of that old dingy prison began to tremble, the building rocked and swayed, the doors burst open, the handcuffs and stocks fell off the prisoners, and Paul, true to his calling, began to tell them the story of redeeming love and one entire household was converted. The Lord takes the things that seem to be against us and makes them a blessing, uses even our enemies and adversaries as a sort of auxiliary.

Beloved, are you in some kind of a dungeon, and is it the midnight of all your hopes? Begin to praise God, and watch for the earthquake, for the Lord is sure to send one!

Habakkuk knew this wonderful secret of victory. Hear his testimony. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail and the fields shall yield

no meat; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold and there shall be no herd in the stalls; YET I WILL REJOICE in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." I fancy that when he got through praising he did just what the real old time Methodists used to do, for he adds, "He will make my feet like hind's feet."

We read in Joshua how the walls of Jericho fell flat after they were compassed about seven days. What weapon of warfare did those mighty men of valor use? A ram's horn for a trumpet while the people shouted with a loud shout.

How many walls of difficulty would fall flat were we to simply march around them with shouts of praise! As we compass our "walls" with praise, the Lord has promised to "compass us about with songs of deliverance."

"Thou waitest for deliverance,

O soul, thou waitest long!

Believe that now deliverance

Doth wait for thee in song!

Sigh not until deliverance

Thy fettered soul doth free;

With songs of glad deliverance

God now doth compass thee."

There is a legend of two angels that come from heaven every morning and go on their rounds all day long. One is the angel of prayers; the other the angel of thanksgivings. Each carries a basket. Soon the angel of requests has his basket filled to overflowing. Everybody pours into it great handfuls of requests, but when the day is ended the angel of thanksgivings has only two or three little contributions of gratitude in his basket.

"Were there not ten cleansed, but where are the nine?"

A missionary in dark China was living a defeated life. Everything seemed to be touched with a shade of sadness for him. He had prayed and prayed for many months for victory; almost discouraged he determined to go to an interior station and hide away and pray till victory came. He reached the place and when he went into his room in the missionary home he saw on a motto these words, "Try Thanksgiving." He stopped and began to PRAISE, and was so uplifted and blessed that, instead of hiding away to pray and agonize for days he immediately returned to his waiting flock to tell them that PRAISE CHANGES THINGS. He gave the testimony that great blessing followed this simple truth.

I wish to add my humble testimony to his. It was a dark, dark night in my life when the words, "Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion" (Psa. 65:1) were impressed upon my mind. Was I keeping God waiting for my word of praise?

I was quite sure that my prayers and supplications had come up before His throne, yet, were piled up. Now could not I praise Him before I saw the answer, or must I wait for signs and wonders ere I believed Him?

I did praise Him, and the most marvelous answer came, exceeding abundantly, above all that I could ask or think. Such a marvelous answer that my life has been completely transformed.

It is said that when Sir Michael Costa was having a rehearsal with the vast array of performers and hundreds of voices, as the mighty chorus rang out with thunder of the organ and ringing of horns and cymbals clashing, some man who played the piccolo far away up in the corner said within himself, "In all this din it matters not what I do," and so ceased to play. Suddenly the great conductor stopped, flung up his hands and all was still. Then he cried aloud, "Where is the piccolo?"

The quick ear had missed it and all was spoiled because he had failed to take his part.

Is your "praise note" missing from the heavenly choir, beloved? Are you waiting, waiting, yearning for God to answer your prayer?

Try thanksgiving. PRAISE changes things. — A tract published by Jno. Lindsay, Paris, Ontario, Canada, 2 cents each.

Any sound religious book in print may be gotten from The Sword Book Room, 207 South Beckley, Dallas. A non-profit missionary enterprise, only the best sold, no modernism nor trash. Write us for prices. Scofield Bibles, etc.

## Choosing the Wrong Sweetheart

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

trace his downfall into sin to habits cultivated in his life and indulged in in the home by parents in his young and tender years, before he was conscious of the importance of such things.

We are amazed today by the prevalence of crime, criminology and lawlessness among the youth of our land, and it is my judgment that this crime wave among the youth of America is the direct result of a break-down in consecration among the parents and in the homes of the land.

Samson was attractive. He had a strong, commanding physique. In fact, his strength was without limit. He was witty as revealed by the riddles he set forth. He was humorous. He was courageous as indicated by killing the lion, his battling of a thousand Philistines, single-handed, with the jawbone of an ass. He was resourceful and he did not violate his consecration to God.

"And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol" (Judges 13:25).

### Samson's Disadvantage

Samson's downfall grew out of the fact that he fell in love with the wrong sweetheart.

"And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

"And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.

"Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines. And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well" (Judges 14:1-3).

Dr. W. F. Fry, our Bible teacher in college, said many times in class:

"Young men and women, when you marry, marry for love, but when you fall in love be sure that you fall in love with the right person."

Unfortunately Samson was not careful about falling in love with the right person. He fell in love with an "uncircumcised Philistine." Let us not be too critical at this point for we must bear in mind that the Philistines were the ruling people who had subjected the children of Israel, but they were not people who worshipped the Lord. The fact that they bore rule softened to some extent in the popular mind the other fact that they did not serve God. Too many times consecrated young men have fallen in love with beautiful, accomplished, attractive young women who belonged to "leading families" in the community, and the fact that the young women were worldly, irreligious, and oftentimes flippant was softened in the mind of the young men by the further fact that they belonged to "leading families." This has been just as true of consecrated young women who became attracted to young men.

Being the only son and somewhat petted by the parents, Samson gave way to the spirit of revenge. When the Philistines succeeded in getting Samson's wife to betray his confidence and later desert him for another man, Samson, in retaliation, tied fire brands to three hundred foxes and burned the corn fields of the Philistines. The spirit of retaliation is a very dangerous germ to permit to hibernate in your heart. This led to bitter war between Samson and the Philistines. It made bad matters worse. I have seen that same thing happen among young people. I have seen a boy and girl who were sweethearts, and when one did something displeasing to the other, then the other assumed the "get even" attitude which resulted in their estrangement, and frequently led to very bitter, ugly feeling between the families. I have seen it happen between husbands and wives when the wife or husband would do something displeasing to the other, and the one

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## YOUTH'S CORNER

Light From the Word of God on Young People's Problems

Will you write-me your questions, comments or criticisms? Some letters will be published without names but all names must be signed. Write YOUTH'S CORNER, *The Sword of the Lord*, 207 South Beckley, Dallas, Texas.

### 1. Should Christians Read Fiction?

### 2. Football: Is it a Sin to Play or Attend?

One reader of *The Sword of the Lord* asks that we print an article on "the magazine habit." Another reader wrote asking us to stop the paper because we advertised some Christian story books, fiction or novels in which the gospel was made clear and scriptures were used to show how Christians ought to live. Many young people ask if it is a sin to read fiction.

I must answer that each book must be judged by itself. There are some histories that are good, and some that are bad for a Christian to read. Some biographies are helpful and some are not. Some books of science are true and informing, and some are written in a way to tear down ideals, arouse ambition along sinful lines and do great harm. Some newspaper articles are not fit for a Christian to read, and yet a Christian, I think, ought to read some of the news. Some poems, many, many of them, in fact, are written by Christians and about the Lord. The words of every hymn and gospel song are poetry. Yet some poems are bad literature. Even so it is about novels or stories. Some are written to glorify God and do good, and others are written in such a way as to appeal to evil motives and encourage fast living and sin. Some novels picture crime as a glorious adventure, picture sin as if it always turned out well. They picture love as a matter of lust. Such stories do great harm and should be avoided by Christians. I have in mind specially stories printed in certain cheap magazines such as *True Confessions*, and many "Western" or "Pulp" magazines. The continued stories published in the newspapers are usually very poor. Any kind of fiction that pays abnormal attention to sex, to crime, and divorce, making evil things seem beautiful and good, are calculated to do great harm and should be avoided by Christians.

On the other hand, there are many, many good Christian novels and stories. If you do not like fiction, then what do you think about the story of the prodigal son which Jesus gave? It was fiction, surely, as all the parables of Jesus were. That is, it was a made up story teaching a spiritual truth. Throughout the Bible fiction is used for teaching spiritual truths and doing good. Nathan the prophet told David the pathetic story of a rich man who stole a poor man's ewe lamb to make a feast for a visiting friend, and then Nathan used that story to show David his sin with Bath-sheba, saying, "Thou art the man" (II Sam. 12:1-7). The story is a legitimate and proper form of literature when rightly used. We should not let the devil have any good form of literature.

D. L. Moody saw the great need for Christian stories and so he founded the Bible Institute Colportage Association and personally selected a number of Christian stories which could be printed by the thousands and sold cheaply, along with books of sermons by himself and other great preachers and Bible teachers.

Literature would be much poorer without such great Christian novels as *Ben Hur* by General Lew Wallace, *Prince of the House of David* by Ingraham, *Barriers Burned Away* and many others by E. P. Roe. Some of the most consecrated and earnest Christians spend their time, with much prayer and study, in the business of creating clearly Christian stories; stories that show how to win souls, that show the plan of salvation, that show the folly of a life of sin, stories that show the trials and victories of a Christian life and how to overcome through the power of the Holy Spirit, using the Word of God. The greatest soul winners of the age have used such Christian stories to help young people. If Jesus used the story method, we ought to use it, too.

Young people ought to read. Ev-

ery Christian ought to take advantage of the enormous opportunities for learning by reading. Instead of forbidding young people to read, let us give them something that is worth reading that will make them better Christians; something that will teach them the Bible, that will make them anxious to win souls and really live for God.

Somebody, years ago, gave me the book *In His Steps, or What Would Jesus Do?* The thrilling pages of that story, laid on my heart the first time to really consecrate myself to the Lord to do only what Jesus would do and to try to please Him in everything. I saw for the first time, the need to surrender my talents for the work of the gospel. For the first time I saw that a Christian who really lived for God would have to be willing to have persecution and misunderstanding. The book did me more good than any sermon I ever heard.

Later, a preacher gave me the book called *The Little Baptist*. It was the story of how a little girl was given a Bible and though she had been sprinkled as a baby, she came to see the need for being baptized. The whole question of baptism was searched through with scripture after scripture throughout the Bible. The doctrines of the new birth, of individual responsibilities to God with no proxies, no human priesthood, was all made clear. I began to get clearly outlined the great doctrines of the Bible which I teach now. And yet it was a story book, a novel if you want to call it that.

Even *Pilgrim's Progress*, that marvelous allegory of the life of a Christian by John Bunyan is in story form. Yet it has blessed millions of people.

The world is full of trashy literature. I should be glad to suggest a list of good reading for Christians including some of the very finest Christian novels. In *The Sword Book Room* we keep some of the very finest of Christian novels that will show the way of salvation to sinners and that will encourage Christians to win souls and live a separated, clean life. Some sell for twenty cents, and others for fifty cents and one dollar and we guarantee each one to be helpful. We have stories for little children and some that will bless and thrill the most mature Christians. And we sell them to do good and to get out the gospel. It is a way of preaching the Word.

### FOOTBALL — IS IT A SIN TO PLAY OR ATTEND?

Other Christians ask me frequently what I think about football. Some young men appeal to me because their parents refuse to allow them to play. Other sincere and earnest Christians think the game is brutal and does great harm. I will deal with this problem the best I can in the spirit of the Bible.

First, let us say that games in themselves are not necessarily harmful. Again and again Paul spoke of the Olympic games and referred to wrestling (Eph. 6:12), boxing (I Cor. 9:26), running races (I Cor. 9:24 and Heb. 12:1,2). Again he speaks of fighting a good fight (II Tim. 4:7). The Greeks in the time of Christ had developed great athletes, and the Olympic games were of world renown. Yet every reference to them in the Bible is a friendly reference, and they are nowhere discouraged or condemned. Training for these athletic events, young men were taught to abstain from every kind of excess or sin that would weaken the body. They were taught good sportsmanship, self-denial and steadfastness. Paul holds up the virtues of a good athlete as a model for Christians. We, too, should run a good race, should fight a good fight, and should put on the whole

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

### THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Entered as second-class matter, July 13, 1935, at the post office at Dallas, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1897.

JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

Published Weekly at 207 South Beckley, Dallas, Texas

Subscription price, \$1.00 a year. Canada and Foreign Countries \$1.50 a year. Advertising Rates on Request



## Youth's Corner

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

armor of God when we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers and the rulers of darkness in high places!

Recreation is not essentially wrong. "Bodily exercise profiteth little" (I Tim. 4:8), Paul said. But even if it profits a little, then we should keep our bodies in good condition. Games are not nearly as important as eternal matters like the salvation of a soul and getting out the gospel, but games are not necessarily wrong.

However, circumstances alter cases. There are certain sporting events that Christians ought not to patronize. I love to see a horse run and was very proud of my fast saddle horse when I was a young man. Yet, I cannot attend in good conscience a race track where nearly everybody bets on the races and where the simple sport itself is overshadowed by a lust for money and the stands themselves are filled with gamblers, bookies, tipsters and money-mad people.

Now for many years I have never attended a professional baseball game. That was partly because I was offended that the

## He That Believeth

ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT

He that believeth shall not make haste,  
In useless hurry his strength to waste;  
Who walks with God can afford to wait.  
For he can never arrive too late.

He that believeth shall not delay.  
Who carries the word of the King on its way—  
Keeps pace with the Pleiades' marching-tune,  
And he can never arrive too soon.

He that believeth shall walk serene,  
With ordered stepping and leisured mein,  
He dwells in the midst of eternities,  
And the timeless ages of God are his.

biggest games were held on Sunday. I believe that good Christian people may often get a couple of hours of healthful and happy relaxation by attending a ball game, provided it is not at a time nor place nor under such circumstances as would dishonor Christ. I think that each Christian must settle for himself the particular details of his problem. Personally, I do not think it would be wrong for me to attend a baseball game, and if I have time and money, I probably will do so someday. But I will not attend on Sunday, and I will not associate with drinking, cursing, gambling people.

Now about football. I played college football two years in DeCatur Baptist junior college. I always have believed and believe now that it was a great blessing to me. An awkward, ignorant, poorly dressed country boy, I soon made for myself a place in the student body and some fast friends. My

timid and self-conscious nature gained confidence in the game. It was rough, but no rougher than the life I had lived for years riding horseback, helping break horses and mules, branding and dehorning cattle, and riding in all weather. After all, life is a pretty tough matter, and football, carefully coached, is not excessively dangerous. In my judgment, the effects are not brutalizing at all, but the contrary. I have seen many a hot-headed, high-tempered, quick-spoken boy snatched out of the game until he could control his temper or apologize. There are strict penalties, strictly enforced for unnecessary roughness and unsportsmanlike conduct. It is a common occurrence to see a football player help an opposing player to his feet after the ball is down, and regularly student bodies are taught to cheer for the opposing side, when they especially need it or deserve it. Between halves ordinarily bands honor the opposing school by playing the school song or the student body and pep-squad form the letters of the opposing school. My experience and observation lead me to believe that football, when well coached and carefully controlled, encourages good grades, courage, initiative, genuine courtesy and regard for the feelings of others, and an ability to take hard knocks. Some preachers are such sissies that I wish they could have played a few years of football so they would not be so afraid of hurting somebody's feelings and preaching plain and straight against sin and for the Word of God.

It is my practice to occasionally attend a football game. Probably I have not averaged over one game a year. I hope to go more often, if time and money permit. I rarely feel that I have time to go, and yet I am increasingly feeling the need for relaxation and rest from my many burdens.

There are many faults with commercialized games. I think football sometimes gives a good player more publicity than is good for his character. Sometimes athletes are encouraged to count football more important than studying. I believe that oftentimes it would be better for them to enjoy playing the game without so much emphasis on the importance of winning. A man gets just as much exercise on a losing team as on a winning team and sometimes just as much character development. And I have known men to gamble on football games, yet I do not believe that that is widespread in the circles to which I am accustomed. On the whole, I believe that football playing may be a wholesome discipline and fine training for a boy who is physically fitted for it. And I believe that occasional attendance at such games by Christians under proper circumstances may be without any harm but be helpful and good.

But every Christian must remember that pleasure is incidental and Jesus comes first. After all, "bodily exercise profiteth little" compared with the great profit of spiritual exercise. Let us seek first the kingdom of God. I could be perfectly happy if I never saw a football game and I never intend to let any kind of earthly pleasure hinder my ministry nor my prayer life, nor take any time that ought to be spent otherwise, God being my helper.

Young Christians, will you join me in the same holy vow?

## Choosing the Wrong Sweetheart

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

who felt they had been mistreated would determine to "get back" at the one doing the wrong — it has wrecked many a home.

It was against this spirit of retaliation that Jesus was teaching primarily when He said:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

"But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

"And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

"Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:38-45).

Samson yielded to the lusts of the flesh.

"Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her" (Judges 16:1).

Being deceived by his first wife and giving away to the spirit of revenge over the intolerable condition that arose therein, it was not a difficult thing for Samson to follow the downward course and become the associate of a harlot and guilty of immoral conduct.

"For the flesh lusteth

against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17).

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

"Do not err, my beloved brethren" (James 1:14-16).

Samson's experience has been the experience of a good many men who were reared in good families, under proper environment, with praying and godly parents; men who knew what it was to be consecrated to God, but their marriage proved a failure and disappointment, and the devil, taking advantage of this disappointment and heart break, led them on into paths of lust and sin.

Samson's downward path proceeds, for we read in Judges 16:4:

"And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah."

He simply couldn't let the women alone. It proved his ruin as it has proved the ruin of many men, among whom have been preachers, evangelistic singers, and church leaders. It was the ruin of Solomon, wise as he was.

Samson had not as yet come to the point in his life where he would have his hair cut — the outward symbol of his dedication and consecration, and the secret of his power. But the man who keeps on trifling with sin and lusting after the flesh will ultimately reach the limit. This was true of Samson. The Philistines were anxious to capture him and they offered eleven hundred pieces of silver to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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## Choosing the Wrong Sweetheart

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Delilah if she would find the way for his capture. So she besought him for the secret of his power. It was the occasion of a lot of fun for him. He told her if she would bind him with seven green withs that were never dried, then he would be weak as other men. This she did, and he broke the withs. She fretted at him for not telling her the truth, and again besought him to reveal the secret of his strength. Then he told her if she would bind him with new ropes that had never been used that his strength could be conquered. This she did only to find that she had been fooled. Upon further provocation by her, he told her that if she would weave the seven locks of his head with the web that it would neutralize his power. This

she did, and again she was disappointed, for he was as strong as ever and seemingly unconquerable. But she was not to be defeated, so she said to him:

"How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth" (Judges 16:15). Drops of water will wear away stone. Spiders' threads frequently bind strong flies.

"And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man" (Judges 16:16, 17).

And so we have the downfall of the strong man, for we read in Judges 16:19-21:

"And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

"And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. AND HE WIST NOT THAT THE LORD WAS DEPARTED FROM HIM.

"But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

Samson's downfall was the result of his trifling with his temptation. He had too much confidence in the flesh. He made sport of the snares set for him. If you had cautioned Samson he would have replied:

"Oh, I know what I am doing. I am not afraid. I know how far to go."

What started out with him in the spirit of jest, frivolity, fun, and light-hearted banter, culminated in wreck, ruin, slavery, and blindness. Many young men and women can mark their ruin, degradation and downfall back to occasions of light-hearted jest and banter; occasions when they said they weren't afraid, they knew how far to go, when to stop, and what they were doing; occasions when they had too much confidence in the flesh. No wonder the Bible admonishes:

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks" (Eph. 5:3, 4).

No wonder the Bible admonishes

us against having confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3), and to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22).

### Samson's Death

"Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hands.

"And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.

"And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

"And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

"Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

"And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

"And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

"And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life" (Judges 16:23-30).

What an ignoble end! A young man who had such a promise, such an advantage, whose concluding chapters tell such a tragedy! It is a disappointment. We look for something better. You say that this is not a picture of the way your life will conclude. This was what Samson would have said too, when he first started. Don't trifle

with sin. Be careful whom you love. Solomon who went this same tragic route, left us the warning by which we should be guided:

"My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

"That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

"For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:

"But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

"Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell" (Prov. 5:1-5).

And should this message be read by one who, unfortunately, has drifted down that terrible path of sinful slavery through careless trifling with sins, let us remind you that just as Samson, leaning against the pillars, his eyes sightless and his enemies mocking him, turned to God and was heard, so you may find strength, you may find forgiveness, grace and consecration by turning back to the God whose warnings you have ignored, whose sustaining grace you have spurned, and whose holy name you have brought in disrepute.

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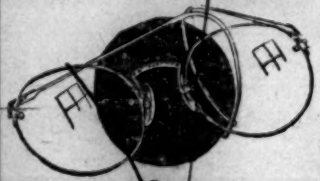
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## Christians: Secure and Insecure

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

contradiction in the Bible. Many scriptures say that the one who believes in Christ has everlasting life, that he will not come into condemnation, and will never perish. There is not a single verse in the Bible that says a child of God will ever be lost. There are many warnings to beware of falling into sin and losing our reward and losing our joy. There are many warnings that God will punish His children when they sin, but not a single statement that He will send one of His children to Hell. And the Bible never tells about a single case of a man who was ever saved and then died and went to Hell. Do not change scriptures to make them contradict other plain scriptures.

Remember salvation is by grace. Then the child of God is kept by the love and power of God. If salvation is on a basis of human works, then, of course, a Christian could fall away and be lost. But if people are saved by works then there is no use for the blood of Christ and Calvary and there is no use in talking about God's grace.

Thank you for your letter and for the book you sent me. I hope you will most prayerfully go into the matter again with these suggestions and check the scriptures in my booklet, "Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost?" Note:—We will be glad to send the twenty-four page booklet, "Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost," by Editor John R. Rice, free to any reader who is troubled on this matter. It has helped thousands.

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